

54TH REGULAR SESSION

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—ASSISTANCE
TO NEEDY DISABLED PERSONS

H. J. R. No. 30

Proposing an Amendment to Article III of the Constitution of the State of Texas, by adopting a new Section to be known as Section 51-b, giving the Legislature the power to provide, under such limitations and restrictions as may be deemed by the Legislature expedient, for assistance to needy individuals who are citizens of the United States, who are more than eighteen (18) years of age and less than sixty-five (65) years of age, who are permanently and totally disabled by reason of a mental or physical handicap and not feasible for vocational rehabilitation, who are residents of the State of Texas, except that the individuals who are receiving aid for the permanently and totally disabled may not, during the same period of time, receive Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Needy Blind, or Aid to Dependent Children, or be resident in any completely State supported institution; providing that the Legislature shall have the authority to accept from the Government of the United States financial aid for the permanently and totally disabled individuals; providing that the amount paid to any individual may not exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20) a month out of State funds and may never exceed the amount paid to that individual from Federal funds; providing that the amount paid out of State funds for assistance payments shall not exceed One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) per year; providing for the necessary proclamation, publication and election.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

"Section 1. That Article III of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended by adding thereto a new Section to be known as Section 51-b which shall read as follows:

"Section 51-b. The Legislature shall have the power to provide by general laws, under such limitations and restrictions as may be deemed by the Legislature expedient, for assistance to needy individuals, who are citizens of the United States, who shall have passed their eighteenth (18th) birthday but have not passed their sixty-fifth (65th) birthday, who are totally and permanently disabled by reason of a mental or physical handicap or a combination of physical and mental handicaps and not feasible for vocational rehabilitation, and who are residents of the State of Texas, who have resided in this State for at least one (1) year continuously immediately preceding the application and who have resided in the State for at least an additional five (5) years during the nine (9) years immediately preceding the application for assistance; and providing further that no individual shall receive assistance under this program for the permanently and totally disabled during any period when he is receiving old age assistance, aid to the needy blind, or aid to dependent children, nor while he is residing permanently in any completely State supported institution; and provided further that not more than Twenty Dollars (\$20) a month out of State funds may be paid to any individual recipient; and provided further that the amount paid out of State funds to any individual may never exceed the amount paid to that individual out of Federal funds; and provided further that the amount paid out of State funds for assistance payments shall not exceed One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) per year.

"The Legislature shall have the authority to accept from the Government of the United States such financial aid for individuals who are permanently and totally disabled as that Government may offer not inconsistent with the restrictions herein provided."

Sec. 2. The foregoing Constitutional Amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Texas on the second Tuesday in November, 1956, at which election there shall be printed on the ballot the following clause:

RESOLUTIONS

"FOR the amendment giving the Legislature the power to provide for assistance not to exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20) a month out of State funds for each needy individual, eighteen (18) years of age or older, who is a resident of the State of Texas and who is permanently and totally disabled by reason of his mental or physical handicap."

"AGAINST the amendment giving the Legislature the power to provide for assistance not to exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20) a month out of State funds for each needy individual, eighteen (18) years of age or older, who is a resident of the State of Texas and who is permanently and totally disabled by reason of his mental or physical handicap."

Sec. 3. PROCLAMATION. The Governor of the State of Texas shall issue the necessary proclamation for an election and have the same published as required by the Constitution and Laws of the State.

Adopted by the House April 26, 1955: Yeas 125, Nays 4; House concurred in Senate amendments, on June 6, 1955: Yeas 119, Nays 5; passed the Senate, as amended, June 3, 1955: Yeas 22, Nays 3.

Approved and filed June 22, 1955.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—AID AND COMPENSATION FOR PERSONS FINED OR IMPRISONED UNJUSTLY

H. J. R. No. 31

Proposing an amendment to Article III of the Constitution of the State of Texas by adding thereto a new Section to be known as Section 51-c, providing that the Legislature may grant aid and compensation to persons who have been fined or imprisoned under the laws of this State for offenses of which they are not guilty.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. That Article III of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended by adding thereto another Section, to be designated as Section 51-c, which shall read as follows:

"Section 51-c. The Legislature may grant aid and compensation to any person who has heretofore paid a fine or served a sentence in prison, or who may hereafter pay a fine or serve a sentence in prison, under the laws of this State for an offense for which he or she is not guilty, under such regulations and limitations as the Legislature may deem expedient."

Sec. 2. The foregoing constitutional amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of this State at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1956, at which election all of the ballots shall have printed thereon the following:

"FOR the constitutional amendment granting power to the Legislature to grant aid and compensation to persons who have paid fines or have served prison sentences under the laws of this State for offenses of which they were not guilty" and

"AGAINST the constitutional amendment granting power to the Legislature to grant aid and compensation to persons who have paid fines or have served prison sentences under the laws of this State for offenses of which they were not guilty."

Sec. 3. The Governor shall issue the necessary proclamation for said election and have the same published as required by the Constitution and laws of this State.

Adopted by the House, March 22, 1955: Yeas 125, Nays 9; passed by the Senate, April 28, 1955: Yeas 27, Nays 0.

Approved May 24, 1955.

To be voted at election to be held Nov. 6, 1956.